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December 23, 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Ex Parte Filing in MB Docket No. 03-172

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is submitted in response to the *ex parte* letter submitted by Cox Communications, Inc. on October 14, 2003.

The rhetorical exchange between Cox Cable and the Broadcast Networks began with Cox's complaint that the Broadcast Networks required Cox to carry cable program networks in consideration for the right to retransmit Network owned broadcast stations. In response, the Networks noted that Cox had the option of paying cash for retransmission consent and thereby avoiding the need to carry any Network owned cable programming services. In their latest submission, Cox complains that the standalone cash option offered by ABC was not communicated with sufficient formality.

It would not appear to serve any useful purpose for ABC to engage in continued exchanges with Cox regarding the details or adequacy of past cash offers. As demonstrated by the attached declaration of Ben Pyne, the record is now crystal clear that ABC is very willing (even eager), to offer standalone cash retransmission consent deals to Cox Cable. Therefore, there is absolutely no basis for the Commission to give any consideration to Cox's complaint regarding retransmission consent arrangements involving carriage of Network owned cable program services. In concluding, we simply note that it is more than a little ironic that the cable network consideration about which Cox complains was developed in response to the well documented disinclination of Cox Cable and other MSOs to pay cash consideration for broadcast retransmission.

Very truly yours,

Susan L. Fox

Attachment

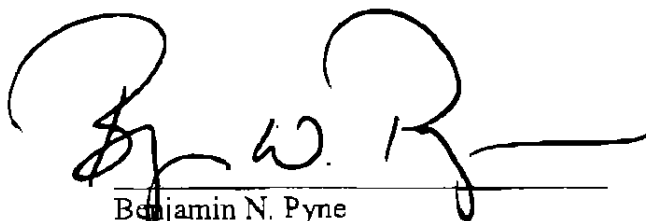
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DECLARATION OF BEN PYNE

I am Senior Vice President of Affiliate Sales and Marketing for ABC Cable Networks Group. Among other responsibilities, I am responsible for working with the ABC owned television stations to negotiate retransmission agreements for the ten ABC Owned Television Stations.

Cox has had in the past, has today and will have in the future, the option of entering into a cash standalone Retransmission Consent contract for cable carriage of one or more of the ABC Owned Television Stations.

I hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, all of the factual information contained in this Declaration is accurate and complete.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben N. Pyne', written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin N. Pyne
Senior Vice President of Affiliate
Sales and Marketing
ABC Cable Networks Group

December 22, 2003